

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒ no ☐

Property Name: 605 Priceville Avenue Inventory Number: BA-3215

Address: 605 Priceville Avenue Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no

City: Sparks Zip Code: 21152 County: Baltimore County

USGS Quadrangle(s): Hereford

Property Owner: Donald and Mary Maher Tax Account ID Number: 0814040380

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 199 Tax Map Number: 34

Project: I-83 SB Belfast Road Noise Wall Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration

Agency Prepared By: Maryland State Highway Administration

Preparer's Name: Stacey Streett with Melissa Blair Date Prepared: 10/05/2007

Documentation is presented in: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*

Name of the District/Property: Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District

Inventory Number: BA-2214 Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☒ yes ☐ no

Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Description:

3215

The residence at 605 Priceville Avenue (BA-3214) is situated on less than two acres in Priceville, in the vicinity of Sparks Glencoe, Baltimore County. The dwelling was constructed circa 1877. It faces slightly northeast, with a shallow setback from Priceville Avenue; however, the façade will be referred to in this form as the east elevation for the sake of clarity. The frame dwelling is a two-story, four-bay-wide by two-bay-deep, side-gable, I-house. A first-story, hipped-roof, wrap-around porch dominates the façade. The main block of the dwelling forms a rectangular footprint, with a two-story, gabled ell projecting from the rear (west) elevation and a one-story, hipped-roof, porch enclosure on the north elevation. The building sits atop a stone foundation pierced by casement windows, the exterior is clad in vinyl siding, and an asphalt roof tops the building. The roof features a boxed cornice with decorative gable returns, and interior, brick chimneys punctuate the north ridge of the main block and the west ridge of the rear ell.

The dwelling is fenestrated by symmetrical rows of one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl-sash, replacement windows, which are flanked by original, louvered, wood shutters on the main block. The fenestration on the symmetrical façade consists of two

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Jim Bullock  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Blair  
Reviewer, National Register Program

11/30/07  
Date

12/3/07  
Date

200703636

windows and two paneled, wood entry doors on the first story, and a row of four windows on the second story. Quaker and Pennsylvania German house plans commonly feature two adjacent entrances on the façade (Pillsbury 1977:15, 22-25; Jakle et al. 1989:210). The wrap-around porch is supported by square, wood posts and a balustrade and a trellis apron covers the crawl space below the wooden porch decking. Two wooden steps reach the center of the façade. The porch wraps around to the north elevation, and a portion of this part is enclosed, with access gained by French doors on the east and west sides. The porch enclosure is lit by three vinyl double-hung windows with faux muntins, and vinyl, louvered shutters flank the fenestration. The second story of the north elevation contains a row of three windows: two windows on the gable end and a single window on the rear ell, which is flush with the north gable end. Twin attic windows pierce the north gable only; they are original, two-over-two, double-hung, wood-sash windows.

The west elevation consists of the gable end of the rear ell, the rear of the main block, and the west side of a one-story, two-bay-wide, shed-roof porch enclosure extending from the south side of the rear ell. A vinyl casement window lighting the west side of the shed-roof wing is the only fenestration on the west elevation. The south elevation is comprised of the south sides of the rear ell, shed-roof wing, and the gable end of the main block. Four symmetrically hung windows light the south gable, and one central window flanked by louvered shutters lights the second story of the rear ell. The shed-roof wing below this window contains a vinyl double-hung window and an adjacent side-entry. The side entry is a paneled and glazed wood door containing four window panes in the upper leaf. It is sheltered by an asphalt-clad, shed-roof hood, and a brick patio and steps with a wooden railing reach the side entry.

An in-ground swimming pool is located behind the dwelling to the northwest. The original water pump for the property is located north of the dwelling. A one-story, two-bay-deep by one-bay-wide, front-gable, frame shed is located at the southeastern edge of the property boundary. It fronts Priceville Avenue. The exterior is sided in clapboard, and it is topped by an asphalt roof, with overhanging eaves on the north and south slopes and gable returns on the east and west sides. Double, beaded-wood doors are located on the east gable, while sets of two windows are pierce the north and south sides of the shed. The wood shutters on the shed were pulled closed at the time of the survey. Their centers are embellished with a dye-cut star pattern. The property is shaded and buffered from the nearby corridor of I-83 (Baltimore-Harrisburg Expressway) by a variety of mature coniferous and deciduous trees, including cedar, dogwood, and maple. Decorative shrubs are planted around the dwelling.

#### Historic Context:

#### Priceville and the Price Family:

The small village of Priceville is located within the eighth election district in northern Baltimore County, about a mile west of Spark's Station on the Northern Central Railway (NCR), which was originally the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad at the time it was constructed in 1838. Spark's Station [Sparks] was named by the railroad in 1821, but it formerly went by any of the following village names: Philopolis, Belfast, Priceville, Verona, Bacon Hill, and Piney Hill, all of which are encompassed within the Sparks Glencoe area (Ms. on file at the HSBC). Priceville is also located less than a quarter of a mile south of the alignment of Belfast Road, which runs east-west, connecting Priceville and York Roads. Quaker Bottom was the name frequently associated with Priceville and Philopolis, because Quakers settled in the area during the early-eighteenth century (Redcay, Ed. 1979; Scharf 1881:883.

Priceville is named after its initial inhabitants, the Price family. The Price family settled in the area in the early-seventeenth century, and married into the Cole and Merryman families. The Prices were of Welsh descent and members of the Society of Friends, attending the Gunpowder Meeting House on Priceville Road, which is located approximately one-quarter mile south from Priceville Avenue. Mordecai Price was the first of the family members to settle in the area during the early-eighteenth century. He

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

lived most of his life in Anne Arundel County and was a member of the West River Friends Meeting (Price Family Lineage 3/2/93:1). In 1723, Mordecai Price purchased 160 acres of land in Priceville, which he named "Price's Chance." His brothers, Thomas and John, also settled in the vicinity of Priceville: one settled east of Glencoe, while the other settled a few miles north of Priceville (BA-2214; Redcay, Ed. 1979; Scharf 1881:883). Heirs of Mordecai established successful businesses in Priceville and the surrounding vicinity of Sparks Glencoe during the first half of the nineteenth century, such as Ezra Price, Mordecai's great grandson. During the first half of the nineteenth century, he operated a Tannery near Priceville. Ezra was greatly esteemed within the community; he died in 1877 (Scharf 1881:883).

Dr. Elias Price, another great grandson of Mordecai, was born in 1826. He attended local public schools. In 1844, he studied medicine under the mentorship of his cousin, Dr. Mahlon C. Price. In 1845, Elias began teaching school. He graduated from the Medical School of the University of Maryland in 1848, and established a practice with his cousin in Priceville. Dr. Elias Price initially practiced allopathy, until he became interested in and vigorously studied the practice of homeopathy. Allopathy is a medical practice that uses remedies that produce different effects than those produced by the disease being treated, while homeopathy treats disease by administration of minute doses of a remedy that, in a healthy person, produces similar symptoms of the disease being treated. Dr. Price concluded that homeopathy was founded on the principles of true medicine and subsequently dissolved his medical partnership with his cousin. He formed his own practice as a homeopathic physician, and was the only homeopathic physician in the county during the mid-nineteenth century (Scharf 1881:756). Dr. Price married Martha Cowman of Alexandria, Virginia, in 1852. Both Elias and his wife Martha were members of the Society of Friends. They had a son, Eldridge C. Price, who later joined his father's medical practice. In 1865, Dr. Price relocated to Baltimore City. He was a highly esteemed physician by his colleagues and the local community, particularly heralded for his counsel and assistance in obstetrics and general medical practice. On September 2, 1874, he became the first president of the Baltimore Homeopathic Medical Society. He also was the president of the State Homeopathic Medical Society, which was organized in December 1875. Furthermore, Dr. Price was one of the founders of the Homeopathic Free Dispensary of Baltimore City and served three years as the obstetrical editor for the American Observer (Scharf 1881:756-757).

Several residences and institutional buildings remain extant from the nineteenth-century village of Priceville. These include the Gunpowder Friends Meeting House (BA-80) at the corner of Priceville Road and Quaker Bottom Road, the Bland House (BA-423) on Priceville Avenue, the dwellings at 601 and 605 Priceville Avenue (BA-3214 and BA-3215, respectively), the Carroll House (BA-374), and the Kenneth Fisher House (BA-422). A mill and blacksmith shop appear along present-day Priceville Avenue on nineteenth-century maps of the area; however, these structures are no longer extant (Sidney, J. C. 1850; Hopkins 1877). During the early-twentieth century, the Bland family reported that a blacksmith shop was on the right side of the entrance to Priceville Avenue, in addition to four houses and a grist mill along Priceville Avenue (Redcay, Ed. 1979). In 1847, John Emerson Lamb, a Quaker, founded the Lamb's School, which operated in a dwelling in Priceville during the early- to mid-nineteenth century. He converted a stone inn on York Road in Sparks, Maryland, into the Milton Academy for boys sometime during the mid-nineteenth century. Many of Mr. Lamb's students commuted approximately one mile east from Priceville to attend his school on York Road (Redcay, Ed. 1979; Ms. on file at the HSBC; Van Den Beemt 1987).

Prior to 1739, Quakers in Baltimore County traveled to the Monthly Meeting at the Cliffs in Calvert County. Some time after 1739, Quakers living in the Western Run and Belfast valleys constructed the Gunpowder Friends Meeting House, which was initially located along Beaver Dam Road near Cockeysville. In 1821, the members constructed a new meeting house on part of a tract of Sammy's Meadows Enlarged (owned by Mordecai Price) near Priceville, because it was much closer and more convenient to their homes. The present Gunpowder Friends Meeting House was constructed in 1866 following the destruction by fire of the original 1821 building. The cemetery surrounding the meeting house contains the graves of generations of the Price family. The meeting house continues to serve its modern congregation (BA-80; Ms. on file at the HSBC; Scharf 1881:886).

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria:       A       B       C       D    Considerations:       A       B       C       D       E       F       G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Local Industry:**

Milling was an important industry in the region and throughout Baltimore during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Grain mills in northern Baltimore County transported their product to ports in Baltimore via the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) and the Northern Central Railroad (NCR). By 1880, receipts of grain for these railroads were each over 20 million dollars (Scharf 1881: 373-377). Early historic maps of the area indicate that a mill was present near Priceville; however, it is no longer extant. This mill dates back to 1823 and was originally owned by Samuel Price, Jr., who operated it as a fulling mill. Samuel then sold it and three acres of Samuel's Meadows to Jehu Price in 1844. Land records of Baltimore County from 1844 describe the "Factory or Mill" together with the head race and mill dam at the end of a road running through Samuel Price's land and leading from the "Turnpike Road by the Friends Meeting House (Liber GHC 25, Folio 454-455; Liber 346, Folio 281-282)." In 1850, the mill is listed as Price's woolen factory and sawmill on Piney Run at Priceville Road, under the ownership of John Price, woolen manufacturer. Additionally, the 1850 census of manufacturers lists Ezra Price as operating a tannery near Priceville (McGrain, Jr. 1980: 61; Sidney, J.C. 1850).

In 1859, the factory and mill functioned as a grist and saw mill under the ownership of Daniel Marks (ibid: 61-62; 1877 Hopkins atlas). Daniel Marks was a native of Pennsylvania, who settled in the county in 1829. Marks is listed as the owner of a custom mill in the 1880 census of manufactures. In 1887, Marks' widow sold the mill to William McKelvy, who then sold it to Robert Lloyd in 1888. McKelvy sued for default of mortgage in 1892. A trustee's advertisement described the property as occupied by Robert F. Stabler and improved by a stone grist mill. Frances A. Ensor purchased the mill and property, and, in 1905, she sold it to Albert and Harry Hahn. John McGrain, Jr., Jr., Baltimore County historian, identified this mill as the Price-Marks mill, located at 707 East Belfast Road. However, a review of historic maps and the as-built plans prepared by the State Roads Commission (SRC) in 1952 for the construction of the Baltimore-Harrisburg Expressway (I-83) indicate that this mill was located at the end of present-day Priceville Avenue. The Price-Marks mill appears to have been demolished by the construction of the I-83.

Members of the Price family still reside and conduct business in the Sparks Glencoe area, such as Mr. Nicholas Price, proprietor of Price's Store at 14821 York Road. The store is adjacent to the property occupied by the former Milton Academy. This store was originally part of a one-acre lot in 1883, when Israel Price bought part of a tract of land called "Alfred" from Christopher C. Love. It appears on the 1850 map as I. Price's Store. The store has continued to remain in the ownership of the Price family (HBSCF, BA-430).

**Significance:**

The property at 605 Priceville Avenue (BA-3214) in Priceville, Baltimore County is within the Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District (BA-2214), a rural historic district significant in the areas of agriculture, architecture, and industry. The district was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in January 1979. The district adjoins the eastern boundary of the Worthington Valley Historic District (BA-2215) at Falls Road and terminates along the western edge of the I-83 corridor. Primarily, the district includes late-eighteenth century to late-nineteenth century buildings constructed of frame, brick, and stone, with few log structures extant; many of the nineteenth-century dwellings remain relatively unaltered and retain integrity of design and historic building materials. The dwellings are traditional forms that have few stylistic embellishments.

605 Priceville Avenue is eligible for the NRHP as a contributing resource to the Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District. The property was constructed during the district's period of significance and is associated with one of the district's area of significance (architecture).

The property does not have an association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

**MHT Comments:**\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



and is not eligible under Criterion A. While the district is significant for its association with agriculture and industry, 605 Priceville Avenue does not have a specific association with either of these historic trends.

The property is not associated with significant persons in the local, regional, or national history, and is therefore not eligible under Criterion B.

605 Priceville Avenue is eligible under Criterion C for architecture. While the structure lacks individual architectural distinction, and would not likely be individually eligible for the NRHP, the property conveys the district's sense of time, place, and historical development. The property has been subjected to alterations during the second half of the twentieth century, including the installation of vinyl siding and replacement vinyl fenestration throughout the dwelling as well as the porch enclosures on the north and south sides of the rear ell. However, the property retains sufficient integrity of location, design and setting to convey its feeling and association as a mid-to-late-nineteenth century, vernacular, continental-plan farmhouse in the historic village of Priceville, reflecting Quaker and Pennsylvania German stylistic influences.

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this survey.

The boundary of 605 Priceville Avenue encompasses tax parcel 199 on Baltimore County tax map 34.

#### References:

Historical Society of Baltimore County (HSBC), Historic Buildings Survey Committee File (HBSCF), 8th Election District. Cockeysville, Maryland: Price's Store (BA-430), 1976. On file in the Vertical Files, Historical Society of Baltimore County.

Historical Society of Baltimore County (HSBC), Price and Sparks Vertical Files, Baltimore County, Maryland: "Sparks," "Sparks Black School," "Sparks and Northern Baltimore County," and "Price Family Lineage 3/2/93," by George Albert Price, additions by Marilyn Carol Price Willis.

Baltimore County Land Records, available online at the Maryland State Archives:

□ [www.mdlandrec.net](http://www.mdlandrec.net), accessed September 2007.

Bromley, George Washington. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Surveyed and published under the direction of G.M. Hopkins, C.E., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On file at the Historical Society of Baltimore County.

Hopkins, G. M., C.E. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1877. On file in the Cultural Resources Library, Maryland State Highway Administration.

Jakle, John A., Robert W. Bastian, and Douglas K. Meyer. Common Houses in America's Small Towns: The Atlantic Seaboard to the Mississippi Valley. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1989.

Martin, Christopher. "Hope Deferred": The Origin and Development of Alexandria's Flounder House." pp. 111-119. Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, II. Edited by Camille Wells. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1986.

Marye, William B. "The Great Maryland Barrens: III," Maryland Historical Magazine. pp.245-246: vol 50 (3). Baltimore, Maryland: Maryland Historical Society, September 1955.

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/>, accessed August 2007.

"Maryland-Heraldry-Virginia: The Merryman Family," Baltimore Sun, pg. 21. December 26, 1909. On file in the Vertical Files, Maryland Room, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Crownsville, Maryland: Gunpowder Friends Meeting House (BA-80); Bland House (BA-423); Carroll House (BA-374); Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District (BA-2214): <http://www.mdihp.net>, accessed August 2007.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1985.

McGrain, Jr., John W. The Molinography of Maryland. Towson, Maryland: Board of Library Trustees, 1980. Updated 2007 and available via the Maryland State Archives website: [http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc4300/sc4300/000005/000000/000003/unrestricted/baltimore\\_county\\_mills.pdf](http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc4300/sc4300/000005/000000/000003/unrestricted/baltimore_county_mills.pdf), accessed August 28, 2007. See pages 61-62.

Pillsbury, Richard. "Patterns in the Folk and Vernacular House Forms of the Pennsylvania Culture Region." Pioneer America. July 1977.

Redcay, W. Harold, Editor. "Belfast Road-Part I: Reflections of Mr. Webster Bosley and Other Residents of the Belfast Area." November-December Newsletter. Cockeysville, Maryland: Historical Society of Baltimore County, 1979.

Scharf, Thomas J., History of Baltimore City and County. 2 vols. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Louis H. Everts Co., 1881.

Sidney, J. C. and J. W. Brown, Map of Baltimore County. Baltimore, Maryland: James M. Stephens, 1850.

"The Heraldry of Maryland: The Merryman Family of Baltimore County—John Merryman, Sr.," Baltimore Sun, January 2, 1910. On file in the Vertical Files, Maryland Room, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland.

The State Roads Commission, State of Maryland. Plans and Profile of Proposed State Highway: Baltimore Harrisburg Expressway S.B.L: Shawan Road to Mt. Carmel Road, Contract No. B-578-53-420, Interstate Route No. 83: As-Built Sheets 21-24 of 44. Federal Aid Project Nos.: I-83-2(19)-16, I-483(17), 1959, Revised 1961.

United States Geological Survey (USGS). Hereford, Maryland, 7.5-minute Quadrangle Map. Mapped by the Army Map Service. Reston, Virginia: United States Geological Survey, 1958, photorevised 1974.

Van Den Beemt, Pat. "Your Home Town: Sparks was Two Towns." Record Advertiser. July 22, 1987. On file in the Vertical Files, Historical Society of Baltimore County (HSBC).

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

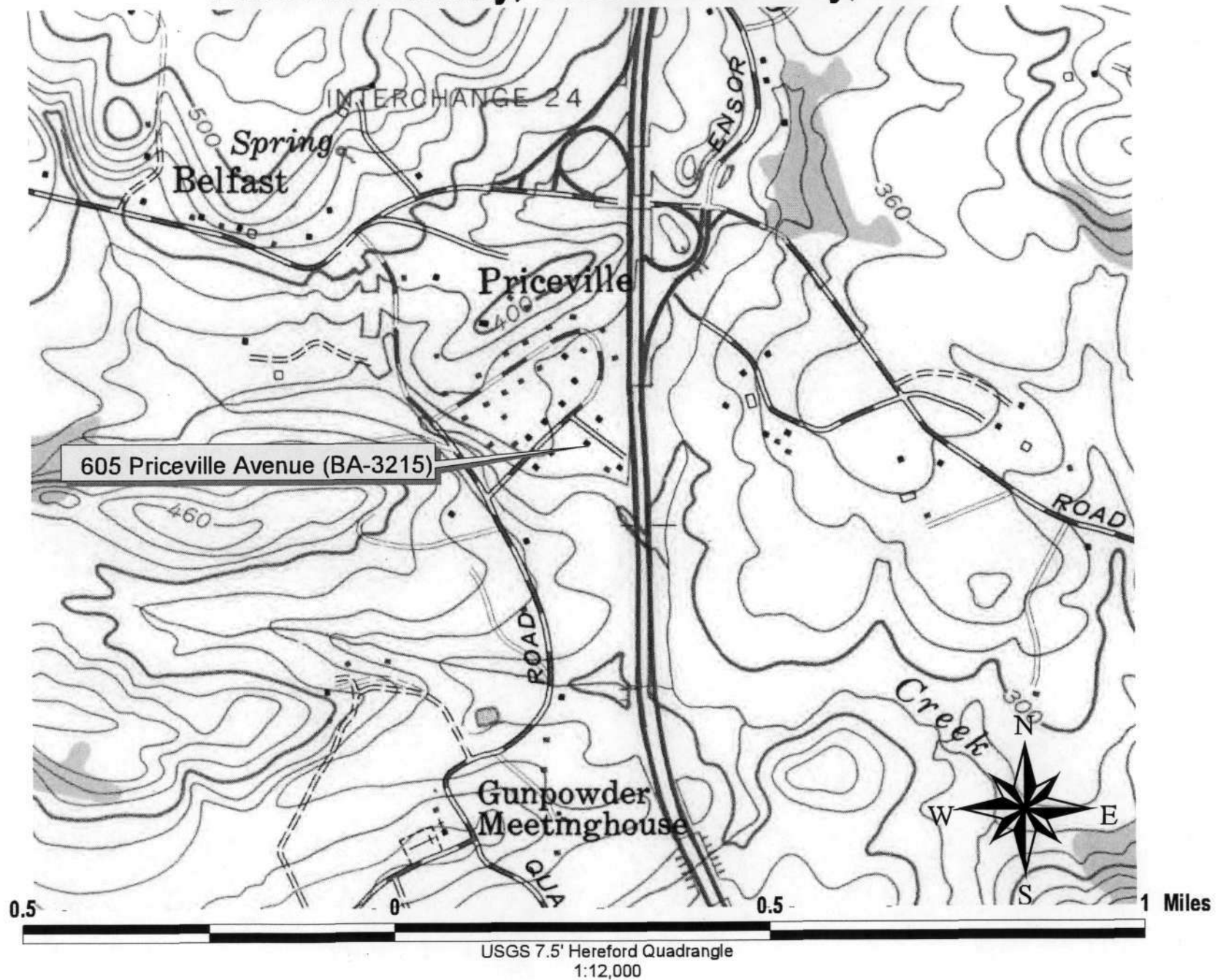
Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria:    A    B    C    D    Considerations:    A    B    C    D    E    F    G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Locator Map: 605 Priceville Avenue (BA-3215) Priceville Vicinity, Baltimore County, MD







BA-3215

605 Priceville Avenue

Baltimore County

M. Blair

August 2007

MD SHPO

East Elevation, View Southwest

Photo 1 of 7

23 00 M0 Y0 D0 08/31/07

007633 24/40 <SR36 11>









BA-3215

605 Pricerville Avenue

Baltimore County

M. Blair

21 00 M0 00 08/31/07

August 2007

MD SHPO

South Elevation, View Northwest

007633 22/40 <SR36 11>

Photo 3 of 7



BA-3215

605 Pricerville Avenue  
Baltimore County  
M. Blair

2012/80 00 0A 00 00 00

August 2007

MD SHPO

West Elevation, View North

007633 21/40 (SR36 11)

Photo 4 of 7





BA-3215

605 Priceville Avenue

Baltimore County

M. Blair

August 2007

MD SHPO

North Elevation, View Southeast

Photo 5 of 7



BA-3215

605 Pricville Avenue

Baltimore County

M. Blair

August 2007

MD SHPO

Shed, View Southeast

Photo 6 of 7

18 00 M0 Y0 D0 08/31/07

007633 19/40 (SR36 11)





BA-3215

605 Pricerville Avenue  
Baltimore Canty

M. Blair

August 2007

MD SHPO

Pump, View Northwest

Photo 7 of 7

12 00 M0 Y0 D0 08/31/07

007633 13/40 <SR36 11>